

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:  
current location information receiving means for receiving location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;

current location management means for storing location information received by said current location information receiving means;

server information receiving means for receiving server information regarding ~~at least one plural~~ domain name system ~~server~~ servers to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including an IP address;

server management means for storing the server information received by said server information receiving means;

request receiving means for receiving a first domain name inquiry request to ~~the at least one~~ a first domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system server in the domain name system servers from a client and for storing a start time of ~~the~~ each domain name inquiry request;

request transferring means for transferring the domain name inquiry ~~request~~ requests received by said request receiving means to the ~~at least one~~ first and second domain name system ~~server~~ servers based on at least one of said location information and said server information;

response receiving means for receiving a first domain name inquiry response to the first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server after receiving the first domain name inquiry response ~~transferred by said request transferring means~~;

~~server information changing means for rewriting said server information when  
rewriting of said server information occurs by the domain name inquiry response received by  
said response receiving means; and~~

request responding means for selecting a the second domain name system server ~~in  
the at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry  
response to said domain name inquiry request~~ based at least on a priority of the second  
domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system  
server, the IP address included in the server information and the start time of the domain  
name inquiry request and for sending the selected domain name inquiry response  
corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus according  
to Claim 1, further comprising:

algorithm receiving means for receiving an algorithm for selecting said second  
domain name inquiry response ;

algorithm management means for storing the algorithm received by said algorithm  
receiving means; and

algorithm processing means for selecting the second domain name inquiry response in  
said request responding means by using the algorithm stored in said algorithm management  
means.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry method comprising:

a first step of receiving location information of an apparatus itself on a connected  
network;

a second step of storing the location information received in said first step;

a third step of receiving server information regarding ~~at least one plural~~ domain name system ~~server~~ servers to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including an IP address;

a fourth step of storing the server information received in said third step;

a fifth step of receiving a first domain name inquiry request to ~~the at least one~~ a first domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system server in the domain name system servers from a client and storing a start time of ~~the~~ each domain name inquiry request;

a sixth step of transferring the domain name inquiry ~~request~~ requests received in said fifth step to the ~~at least one~~ first and second domain name system ~~server~~ servers based on at least one of said location information and said server information;

a seventh step of receiving a first domain name inquiry response to the first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server after receiving the first domain name inquiry response ~~transferred in said sixth step~~;

~~an eighth step of rewriting said server information when rewriting of said server information occurs by the domain name inquiry response received in said seventh step; and~~

~~a ninth~~ an eighth step of selecting a the second domain name system server ~~in the at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response to said domain name inquiry request~~ based at least on a priority of the second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server, the IP address included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and sending the selected domain name inquiry response corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry method according to Claim 3, further comprising:

a ~~tenth~~ ninth step of receiving an algorithm for selecting said domain name inquiry response;

~~an eleventh~~ a tenth step of storing the algorithm received in said ~~tenth~~ ninth step; and

~~a twelfth~~ an eleventh step of selecting the domain name inquiry response in said ~~ninth~~ eighth step by using the algorithm stored in said eleventh step.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium having a domain name system inquiry method recorded therein, the domain name system inquiry method comprising:

a first step of receiving location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;

a second step of storing the location information received in said first step;

a third step of receiving server information regarding ~~at least one~~ plural domain name system ~~server~~ servers to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including an IP address;

a fourth step of storing the server information received in said third step;

a fifth step of receiving a first domain name inquiry request to ~~the at least one~~ a first domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system server in the domain name system servers from a client and storing a start time of ~~the~~ each domain name inquiry request;

a sixth step of transferring the domain name inquiry ~~request~~ requests received in said fifth step to the ~~at least one~~ first and second domain name system ~~server~~ servers based on at least one of said location information and said server information;

a seventh step of receiving a first domain name inquiry response to the first domain name inquiry request ~~transferred in said sixth step~~ from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server after receiving the first domain name inquiry response;

~~an eighth step of rewriting said server information when rewriting of said server information occurs by the domain name inquiry response received in said seventh step; and~~

~~a ninth~~ an eighth step of selecting ~~[[a]]~~ the second domain name system server ~~in the at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response to said domain name inquiry request~~ based at least on a priority of the second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server, the IP address included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and sending the selected domain name inquiry response corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:  
current location information receiving mechanism configured to receive location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;

current location management mechanism configured to store location information received by said current location information receiving mechanism;

server information receiving mechanism configured to receive server information regarding ~~at least one~~ plural domain name system ~~server~~ servers to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including an IP address;

server management mechanism configured to store the server information received by said server information receiving mechanism;

request receiving mechanism configured to receive a first domain name inquiry request to the a first domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system server in the domain name system servers from a client and to store a start time of the each domain name inquiry request;

request transferring mechanism configured to transfer the domain name inquiry ~~request~~ requests received by said request receiving mechanism to the ~~at least one~~ first and second domain name system server servers based on at least one of said location information and said server information;

response receiving mechanism configured to receive a first domain name inquiry response to the first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server after receiving the first domain name inquiry response transferred by said request transferring mechanism;

~~server information changing mechanism configured to rewrite said server information when rewriting of said server information occurs by the domain name inquiry response received by said response receiving mechanism;~~ and

request responding mechanism configured to select ~~[[a]]~~ the second domain name system server ~~in the at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response to said domain name inquiry request~~ based at least on a priority of the second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server, the IP address included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and to send the domain name inquiry response corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising:

algorithm receiving mechanism configured to receive an algorithm for selecting said second domain name inquiry response;

algorithm management mechanism configured to store the algorithm received by said algorithm receiving mechanism; and

algorithm processing section mechanism configured to select the second domain name inquiry response in said request responding mechanism by using the algorithm stored in said algorithm management mechanism.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:  
current location information receiving means for receiving location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;

current location management means for storing location information received by said current location information receiving means;

server information receiving means for receiving server information regarding ~~at least one plural~~ domain name system ~~server~~ servers to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including a failure counter;

server management means for storing the server information received by said server information receiving means;

request receiving means for receiving a first domain name inquiry request to ~~the at least one~~ a first domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system server in the domain name system servers from a client and to store a start time of ~~the~~ each domain name inquiry request;

request transferring means for transferring the domain name inquiry ~~request requests~~ received by said request receiving means to the ~~at least one~~ first and second domain name system ~~server servers~~ based on at least one of said location information and said server information;

response receiving means for receiving a first domain name inquiry response to the first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server after receiving the first domain name inquiry response transferred by said ~~request transferring means;~~

~~server information changing means for rewriting said failure counter based on the domain name inquiry response received by said response receiving means; and~~

request responding means for selecting ~~[[a]]~~ the second domain name system server ~~in that at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response to the domain name inquiry request based at least on a priority of the second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server, the~~ failure counter included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and for sending the selected domain name inquiry response corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus according to Claim 8, further comprising:

algorithm receiving means for receiving an algorithm for selecting said ~~particular one~~ second domain name inquiry response;

algorithm management means for storing the algorithm received by said algorithm receiving means; and



algorithm processing means for selecting said ~~particular one~~ second domain name inquiry response in said request responding means by using the algorithm stored in said algorithm management means.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry method comprising:

- receiving location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;
- storing the received location information;
- receiving server information regarding ~~[[a]] plural~~ domain name system ~~server~~ servers to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including a failure counter;
- storing the received server information;
- receiving a first domain name inquiry request to ~~at least one a first domain name~~ system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system server in the domain name system servers from a client and storing a start time of ~~the~~ each domain name inquiry request;
- transferring the received domain name inquiry ~~request~~ requests to the ~~at least one first~~ and second domain name system ~~server~~ servers based on at least one of said location information and said server information;
- receiving ~~more than one~~ a first domain name inquiry response to the ~~transferred first~~ domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server after receiving the first domain name inquiry response;
- ~~rewriting said failure counter based on at least one of the more than one received domain name inquiry response;~~ and
- selecting ~~[[a]] the second~~ domain name system server ~~in the at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response to the domain name~~

~~inquiry request~~ based on a priority of the second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server, the failure counter included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and sending the selected domain name inquiry response corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry method according to Claim 10, further comprising:

receiving an algorithm for selecting said ~~particular one~~ second domain name inquiry response;  
storing the received algorithm; and  
selecting the ~~particular one~~ second domain name inquiry response by using the stored algorithm.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium having a domain name system inquiry method recorded therein, the domain name system inquiry method comprising:

receiving ~~the~~ location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;  
storing the received location information;  
receiving server information regarding ~~at least one~~ plural domain name system ~~server~~ servers to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including a failure counter;  
storing the received server information;  
receiving a first domain name inquiry request to ~~the at least one~~ a first domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system

server in the domain name system servers from a client and storing a start time of ~~the~~ each domain name inquiry request;

transferring the received domain name inquiry request requests to the ~~at least one~~ first and second domain name system ~~server~~ servers based on at least one of said location information and said server information;

receiving ~~more than one~~ a first domain name inquiry response to the ~~transferred~~ first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server after receiving the first domain name inquiry response;

~~rewriting said failure counter based on at least one of the more than one received domain name inquiry response;~~ and

selecting ~~[[a]]~~ the second domain name system server ~~in the at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response to the domain name inquiry request~~ based on a priority of the second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server, the failure counter included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and sending the selected domain name inquiry response corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:

a current location information receiving mechanism configured to receive location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;

a current location management mechanism configured to store location information received by said current location information receiving mechanism;

a server information receiving mechanism configured to receive server information regarding ~~at least one plural~~ domain name system ~~server~~ servers to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including a failure counter;

a server management mechanism configured to store the server information received by said server information receiving mechanism;

a request receiving mechanism configured to receive a first domain name inquiry request to ~~the at least one~~ a first domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system server in the domain name system servers from a client and to store the start time of ~~the~~ each domain name inquiry request;

a request transferring mechanism configured to transfer the domain name inquiry request requests received by said request receiving mechanism to the ~~at least one~~ first and second domain name system ~~server~~ servers based on at least one of said location information and said server information;

a response receiving mechanism configured to receive ~~more than one~~ a first domain name inquiry response to the first domain name inquiry request ~~transferred by said request transferring mechanism~~ from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server after receiving the first domain name inquiry response;

~~a server information changing mechanism configured to rewrite said failure counter based on at least one of the more than one domain name inquiry response received by said response receiving mechanism; and~~

a request responding mechanism configured to select ~~[[a]]~~ the second domain name system server ~~in the at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response to said domain name inquiry request~~ based on a priority of the second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system

server, the failure counter included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and to send the selected domain name inquiry response corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus according to Claim 13, further comprising:

an algorithm receiving mechanism configured to receive an algorithm for selecting said ~~particular one~~ second domain name inquiry response;

an algorithm management mechanism configured to store the algorithm received by said algorithm receiving mechanism; and

an algorithm processing mechanism configured to select the ~~particular one~~ second domain name inquiry response in said request responding mechanism by using the algorithm stored in said algorithm management mechanism.